

Application No.: 10/712,529

Case No.: 59388US002

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, please replace the paragraph that starts on line 17 and ends on line 26 with the following amended paragraph:

Numerous solutions have been offered to help solve these problems, but they have all suffered from significant disadvantages. Many building solutions seek to improve the water hold out by sealing around windows with caulking, combined with water impervious or resistive layers. New building standards require high-energy efficiency, which leads to low air infiltration. Even air exchange devices that seek to improve indoor air quality do little to remedy water wall infiltration. As improved sealing means have been used, it has now been learned that particularly around windows and doors, water damage has been severe. This problem appears to have been potentially made worse by the extensive sealing caulks and conventional tapes, since once water makes it past the sealing materials it is persistent in the walls. Due to the extensive sealing, the water is unable to leave the interior wall structure.

On page 2, please replace the paragraph that starts on line 4 and ends on line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

Another general approach has been to build large spaces in the wall to allow ventilation means between the siding and adjacent wall layers. This method does provide a useful means of venting out water vapor, as well as liquid water, however this method is expensive and adds appreciable labor to the construction. Also, the use of wood strips or other spacing materials tends to leave significant spans of siding between the spacing layers. These spans can lead to uneven siding sections due to extensive temperature and humidity swings.

On page 3, please replace the paragraph that starts on line 8 and ends on line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

In certain embodiments, the substrate is a frame for a defined opening, for example a window jamb or a door jamb. The substrate may also be a window sill, wall sheathing, a window, a roof, exterior cladding, ~~or an~~ or an exterior protrusion.